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News Release

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Fridley man pleads guilty to bank robbery

A 40-year-old Fridley man pleaded guilty today in federal court to one count of bank robbery in connection with the April 25 holdup of the TCF Bank in Fridley.

Steven Walter Smialek entered his plea July 24 in Minneapolis before United States District Court Judge Donovan Frank. Smialek was indicted on May 12.

According to Smialek's plea agreement, on April 25 he did by force, violence and intimidation take approximately \$1,540 from a teller at the bank, located at 5205 Central Ave. N.E.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, the robber entered the bank at approximately 6:55 p.m. and stood in line for an open teller. Once a teller was available, he approached the teller, placed a note on the counter, and said something to the effect of, "I'm armed and hand over the money."

The teller complied and gave cash to the robber, who grabbed it and left the bank. Subsequent to the robbery, photographs of the robber were aired in the local media. Police received numerous tips by concerned citizens stating that the robber appeared to be Smialek.

Smialek was arrested without incident April 28 outside of his place of employment in Coon Rapids. During an executed search warrant of Smialek's residence, police found clothing worn by and items used by the bank robber.

Smialek faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Frank will determine Smialek's sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI and the police departments of Coon Rapids and Fridley, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathan P. Petterson.